

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

This listing of the claims replaces all prior versions and listings of the claims in the application.

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1. (previously amended) A method of assembling fence sections, the method comprising the steps of:
- a. assembling fence pickets and rails to form a fence section;
  - b. positioning said fence section in the path of a banding machine; and
  - c. banding said fence section with a band from said banding machine such that said band forms a tight loop that wraps entirely around said rails and holds said fence section together.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein said fence section comprises plastic rails and plastic pickets.
3. (previously amended) The method of claim 1 wherein said band is plastic.
4. (previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said rails have channels therein for receiving ends of said pickets.
5. (original) The fence section assembled and banded as described in claim 1.
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